

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 94-174-W/S - ORDER NO. 94-520 ✓
JUNE 6, 1994

IN RE: Request of Pinebrook of Spartanburg) ORDER
 for Approval of Customer Account) APPROVING
 Charge and Reconnect Charge for Water.) CHARGES

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of Pinebrook of Spartanburg (Pinebrook or the Company) for the establishment of a customer account charge for water and sewer customers and the establishment of a reconnect charge for water customers.

By letter dated April 7, 1994, the Commission's Executive Director instructed the Company to publish, one time, a prepared Notice of Filing in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected by the Company's request. The Company was also directed to furnish a copy of the Notice of Filing to each customer. The Company submitted affidavits demonstrating that the Notice had been published and furnished to each customer pursuant to the instructions of the Executive Director. The purpose of the Notice of Filing was to notify interested persons of the manner and time in which to file pleadings for participation in these proceedings. No Petitions to Intervene or letters of protest were received by the Commission.

By letter dated April 26, 1994, Pinebrook requested that the Commission waive the hearing requirements and consider its request if no opposition was received by the Commission. As no protests or Petitions to Intervene were received in this Docket, the Commission will grant Pinebrook's request to waive the hearing requirement.

According to the Application, Pinebrook proposes to establish an account set-up charge, or customer account charge, for its water and sewer customers. This customer account charge is a one-time, non-refundable charge to each new account to defray the costs of initiating water and sewer service. The reconnection charge for water is for costs associated with reconnecting service which has been disconnected for any reason set forth in 26 S.C. Regs. 103-732.5. By its Application, Pinebrook requested a customer account charge of \$30.00, and a reconnection charge for water of \$40.00.

Pinebrook submitted justification for these charges. According to the justification for the customer account charge, Pinebrook asserts that establishment of a new account and connection costs Pinebrook \$78.00 in labor and materials. This cost includes the office work to establish the account as well as to make the physical connection for the customer. According to the justification for the reconnection charge for water, Pinebrook asserts that reconnection of a customer costs Pinebrook \$56.00 in materials and labor.

The Commission has examined this matter and concludes that

good cause has been shown for Pinebrook to establish a customer account charge for water and sewer customers and a reconnect charge for water customers. However, based on the Application and the record, the Commission concludes that the charges proposed by Pinebrook are unreasonable. The Commission concludes that the company should be allowed to implement a customer account charge for water and sewer customers of \$20.00 and a reconnection charge of \$30.00 for water customers. These charges are shown in Appendix A, which is incorporated herein by reference.

The Commission concludes that the charges as approved herein achieve a balance between the interests of the Company and those of the customer.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

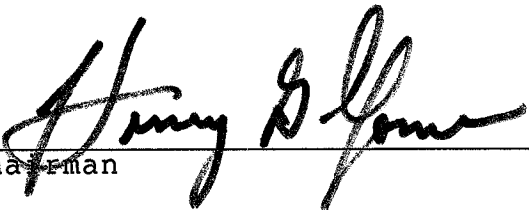
1. The schedule of charges as proposed by the Company is found unreasonable and is hereby denied.

2. The schedule of charges as approved herein is approved for service rendered on or after the date of this Order. The schedule of charges is deemed filed with the Commission pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §58-5-240 (1976), as amended.

3. Should these schedules not be placed in effect until three (3) months from the effective date of this Order, the schedules shall not be charged without written permission from the Commission.

4. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Chairman

ATTEST:



Deputy Executive Director

(SEAL)

APPENDIX A

PINEBROOK OF SPARTANBURG
100 DAYTONA DRIVE #1
SPARTANBURG, S. C. 29303
(803) 578-0823

FILED PURSUANT TO:

DOCKET NO. 94-174-W/S

ORDER NO. 94-520

EFFECTIVE DATE: JUNE 6, 1994

Customer Account Charge-----\$20.00
This is a one-time fee
charged to each new account
to defray cost of initiating
service.

Reconnect Charge for Water-----\$30.00